



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FACT SHEET

Results of
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
at
Montgomery Township Housing Development
and
Rocky Hill Municipal Wellfield
Superfund Sites
Montgomery Township and Rocky Hill Borough
Somerset County

May, 1988

Site Description:

The Montgomery Township Housing Development (MTHD) Superfund site encompasses approximately 72 acres to the east of U.S. Route 206 and north of N.J. Route 518. The development consists of 71 private homes with six additional homes included in the surrounding area. The Rocky Hill Municipal Wellfield (RHMW) Superfund site is a two-acre tract of land located to the east of Route 206 and south of Route 518 in the Borough of Rocky Hill.

Drinking water for the MTHD is supplied by private residential wells and by the Elizabethtown Water Company. Of the 77 residences, roughly one-half have been connected to the Elizabethtown system while the remaining residents continue to use private wells. Rocky Hill Borough's public water system is supplied by the municipal wellfield. An air stripping system presently treats the water so that it meets drinking water standards.

Background:

In 1979, the Rocky Hill municipal well was closed due to elevated levels of trichloroethene (TCE) and Elizabethtown Water Company provided a temporary alternative water supply. Since July 1983, the Borough's water supply has been treated by the air stripping system. Concern over the Rocky Hill findings triggered a subsequent sampling program for the neighboring MTHD. In March 1981, Elizabethtown Water Company water lines were installed in MTHD and residents were advised to connect to these lines.

Cooperative Agreements between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to perform Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Studies (RI/FS) for the sites were finalized in the fall of 1984. One RI/FS, initiated in the fall of 1985, was conducted for both sites due to their close proximity and the potentially related source(s) of contamination. The study was conducted under the Superfund Program by Woodward-Clyde Consultants of Wayne, NJ at a cost of \$990,000. Of 100 sites listed on the National Priorities List (Superfund), the MTHD and RHMW are ranked 65th and 66th respectively.

Status:

The completed draft RI/FS and the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) are available for public review at the following repositories: Somerset County Library in Bridgewater; Mary Jacobs Library in Rocky Hill; Montgomery Township Municipal Building; USEPA Region II, Emergency and Remedial Response Division in New York City and the NJDEP Division of Hazardous Site Mitigation in Trenton. The public comment period closes May 23, 1988. Comments on the study should be submitted to Grace Singer, Chief, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Hazardous Site Mitigation, Bureau of Community Relations, 401 East State Street, CN 413, Trenton, NJ 08625. All public comments will be incorporated into the remedial alternative selection process. The selected remedy will be documented in a Record of Decision (ROD) to be issued by this summer. Notice of the ROD will be published and the document will be available to the public at the repositories listed above. The ROD will be accompanied by an explanation of any significant changes from the Proposed Remedial Action Plan and will include a response to all comments received during the comment period. Questions may be directed to Jeffrey Folmer of NJDEP at (609) 984-3081.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study - Scope of Work

- Install monitoring wells and drill soil borings.
- Collect water, soil and septic tank samples for chemical analysis.
- Monitor air quality during site investigations.
- Define contaminant movement pathway(s).
- Assess aquifer characteristics and drinking water quality.
- Identify likely sources of contamination.
- Identify all hazardous substances.

Remedial Investigation Results:

The Remedial Investigation consisted of a two-phase field investigation which was designed to characterize the extent of the ground water contamination and identify a source(s). Results of the Phase I investigation confirmed earlier findings that the ground water was contaminated between the RHMW and the MTHD. An interim evaluation of these findings concluded that private wells within and immediately surrounding the MTHD should be sealed and public water connections provided. In September 1987, USEPA/NJDEP agreed to provide public water connections under a separate Record of Decision which addressed this issue exclusively. This program is currently scheduled for completion in early 1989.

The Phase II investigation indicated that the contamination extends east from the RHMW to the Millstone River and that the primary source of contamination is located in an area north of the RHMW. Concurrent with the Phase II investigation, an independent investigation was being conducted in the source area by Princeton Gamma Tech, Inc. (PGT), the current site occupant, in compliance with the state's Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act (ECRA). During the PGT investigation, high levels of ground water contamination were found at the PGT site identifying that site as the primary source area. However the PGT investigation also revealed that soil samples were not contaminated with TCE, indicating that the ground water contamination was most likely caused by past disposal practices.

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